

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 AF-08 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 AID-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 080948Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6171

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KU

SUBJ: TWO MORE PUBLICATIONS SHUT DOWN BY GOK; IRAQI PRESS

ATTACKS GOK

REF: A. KUWAIT 4159, (B) KUWAIT 4246

1. KUWAIT PRESS INDICATES THAT GOK HAS SHUT DOWN TWO MORE LOCAL PUBLICATIONS (TOTAL OF FIVE) UNDER RECENT AMENDMENT TO PRESS LAW (REF A). PUBLICATIONS, BOTH CLOSED FOR THREE MONTHS, WERE:

A. WEEKLY MAGAZINE AL RISALAH, A BLANTANTLY PRO-IRAQI BAATH PARTY PUBLICATION COMMONLY ASSUMED TO BE SUBSIDIZED BY IRAQI GOVERNMENT, WHICH USUALLY CONTAINED ATTACKS ON OTHER ARAB CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERMENTS. CLOSURE ORDER DATED SEPTEMBER 5.

B. WEEKLY MAGAZINE AL RA'ID, ORGAN OF KUWAITI TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, THE LEADING POLITICO-PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY OF KUWAITI TEACHERS. PRESS REPORT (AL QABAS, SEPT 7) ASSERTS THAT THIS PUBLICATION WAS CLOSED FOR PUBLISHING AN EDITORIAL ON RECENT KUWAITI POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS ENTITLED "A STOP ON THE WAY". CLOSURE ORDER DATED SEPT 6.

2. KUWAITI GOVERMENTAL SHAKEUP AND SUSPENSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPORTEDLY HAS EVOKED HOSTILE REACTION FROM IRAQI MEDIA. REPORTS IN KUWAITI PRESS INDICATE THAT GOI FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS WITH "GREAT CONCERN" (REUTERS, AL QABAS, SEPT 7). AL SIYASAH (SEPT 5 AND 7) EXCERPTS RADIO BAGHDAD BROADCASTS AND TEXTS OF ARTICLES APPEARING IN IRAQI PAPERS AL IRAQ (REPORTEDLY KURDISH ORGAN) AND AL THAWRAH (BAATH PARTY MOUTHPIECE). AL IRAQ ARTICLE, APPARENTLY SEPT 4, REPORTEDLY CONDEMNED KUWAITI AMIR'S ACTION AS "COUP AGAINST CONSTITUTIONAL RULES", CALLED FOR ARAB COUNTRIES AND PALESTINIANS TO "TAKE DRASIC STEPS AGAINST IT", AND CHARGES THAT GOK SHAKEUP RELATED TO US EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH "PACTS" IN REGION FOR POLITICAL BLACKMAIL. SARCASTIC AL THAWRAH ARTICLE, APPARENTLY SEPT 6, REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IT IS "WRONG TO SAY THAT DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN KILLED IN KUWAIT, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO DEMOCRACY IN THE FIRST PLACE", SINCE POWER WAS ALWAYS IN HANDS OF KUWAITI RULING FAMILY, SUPPORTED BY "MONOPLISTIC COMPANIES AND FOREIGN FORCES." THUS, AMIRI DECRESS MERELY LIQUIDATED THE "SUPERFICIAL FORMS AND PRACTICES" WHICH INTERFERRED WITH DESIRES OF RULERS. ARTICLE ALSO ATTACKS GOK FRIENDSHIP WITH SYRIA AND REGIONAL ARAB "BALANCING ACT", AND CHARGES THAT GOK HAS BEEN "PLAYING A GAME OF SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE" IN LEBANON CONSONANT WITH BALANCING KUWAITI SELFISH INTERESTS. ARTICLE ALSO ASSERTS THAT KUWAIT PLAYS ACTIVE ROLE IN "SUSPICIOUS" MOVEMENT TOWARD GULF "SECURITY", AND LINKS GOK SHAKEUP WITH US PLOT TO CONTROL PALESTINIAN DESTINY, PROTECT "IMPERIALIST INTERESTS", AND PROTECT RIGHT WING GOVERNMENTS IN GULF. ACCORDING TO AL SIYASAH (SEPT 7) RADIO BAGHDAD BROADCAST OF UNKNOWN DATE GREETED "KUWAITI LISTENERS", INFORMED THEM THAT GOK WAS COOPERATING WITH SYRIAN WHEN IT SHUT DOWN LEFTIST MAGAZINE HERE LAST

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WEEK, AND ATTACKED GOK FOR MISTREATING FOREIGN ARABS RESIDING IN KUWAIT.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC OFFICIAL GOK REACTION TO IRAQI PRESS ATTACKS, BUT KUWAITI PRESS NOTES THAT ON SEPT 6 FONMIN UNDERSEC CALLED IN IRAQI AMBASSADOR FOR CHAT ON "BILATERAL RELATIONS" (AL ANBA, SEPT 7), AND KUWAITI PAPERS HAVE BEGUN TO HIT BACK RATHER SOFTLY AT IRAQ AS "CULTURALLY BACKWARD

STATE" LED BY MEN WHO "LACK INFORMATION" ON KUWAITI DEVELOPEMENTS (AL SIYASAH, SEPT 7). ONE EDITOR (AL SIYASAH, SEPT 7) SAID IRAQI MEDIA REACTION WAS "PAINFUL" AND "INCORRECT", AND NOTED THAT IRAQ HAD MADE ATTACKS SIMILAR TO THOSE MADE BY "JUMBLATT FORCES", APPARENTLY REFERRING TO LEBANESE REJECTIONIST FRONT STATEMENT REPORTED REF B, PARA 2.
MAESTRONE

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